

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of communicating with a gaming machine, the method comprising:

providing a gaming machine that displays a wagering game, the gaming machine including a first wireless transceiver;

acquiring a portable data unit from a data unit provider, the portable data unit including a second wireless transceiver;

positioning the portable data unit in proximity to the gaming machine, without inserting the portable data unit into any portion of the gaming machine, to establish a wireless transmission link between the first and second wireless transceivers;

transmitting information between the portable data unit and the gaming machine via the wireless transmission link; and

encrypting the transmitted information via an algorithm combining a key with the transmitted information to create ciphertext into ciphered information.